

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The present application is a continuation of copending parent U.S. application serial no. 09/718,483.

The present new continuation application is submitted to further prosecute new claims 1-5, which are presented as the original claims in the present application. Those new claims 1-5 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Further, by the present preliminary amendment the specification is amended to reflect the status of the present continuation application and to correct minor informalities in the specification. The changes made to the specification are the same changes made in the parent of the present application, and are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

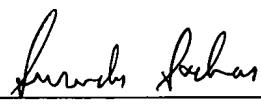
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
SNS:smi



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record